

Oct. 27 (Bloomberg) -- U.S. House Democrats examining the Central Intelligence Agency's failure to notify Congress of its operations are looking into at least five incidents that date back to 2001.

Those incidents include the agency's destruction of videotapes that show the use of aggressive interrogation tactics including waterboarding, or simulated drowning, on terrorism suspects. Democrats are investigating how much CIA told lawmakers in 2002 about its use of these techniques.

Also drawing attention is a program members learned of in June that media reports said was an effort to assassinate al- Qaeda's leaders, said Representative Jan Schakowsky, an Illinois Democrat who heads one of the House Intelligence Committee panels involved in the probe.

The incidents being examined "are symptoms of a larger disease" of the CIA not telling Congress what it's doing, Schakowsky told reporters today in Washington. The Intelligence Committee "has felt very frustrated," she said.

Democrats also are probing the CIA's 2001 downing of a small plane over Peru that led to the deaths of two Michigan residents, Schakowsky said.

Representative Anna Eshoo, a California Democrat who heads a House panel looking at the 1947 law that governs notification, said legislation may be needed to assure CIA officials are held accountable for not informing Congress.

"We are in a current era of breakdowns" of the agency sharing information with lawmakers, she said.

CIA spokesman Paul Gimigliano, in an e-mailed statement, said, "It is the policy of the Central Intelligence Agency to be clear and candid with the United States Congress. Director Panetta has made a relationship of trust, confidence, and respect a top priority."

--By Jeff Bliss